

Amendments to the Drawings:

The reference character "124" has been amended as it appears in Fig. 1, as shown in the enclosed "Replacement Sheet." Particularly, the numeral 124 in Fig. 1 is now drawn to point more generally to the floor suction nozzle assembly to be in agreement with the numeral designation for 124 shown in Fig. 2. An appropriate correction has also been made to the Specification at page 6, lines 1-10, as reflected in the "Amendments to the Specification" section of this response.

A "Replacement Sheet" is provided for Fig. 3 so that it now includes the reference sign "874."

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings in light of a number of informalities. First, the Examiner has noted that the reference character “62” has been used to designate both an upright handle assembly element and a handle portion element (page 4, line 26 and page 5, line 3). In response, Applicants have amended the Specification at page 4, line 23 through page 5, line 21 such that the “upright handle portion assembly 62” originally recited therein is now “handle portion 62,” in accordance with the rest of the Specification and the Drawings. A Drawing amendment was not necessary.

The Examiner has also objected to the reference character “124,” which had been used to designate both a suction nozzle assembly element and a suction nozzle element (page 6, line 3 and page 6, line 8). In response, Applicants have amended the Specification at page 6, lines 1-10 such that the “suction nozzle 124” originally recited therein is now a “floor suction assembly 124” in accordance with the remainder of the Specification and the Drawings. Fig. 1 has also been amended as indicated in the “Amendments to the Drawings” section herein. In light of these amendments, there should no longer be any informalities with respect to reference character 124.

The Examiner further objected to the Drawings for failure to identify the flexible hose 874 element recited at page 9, line 11. An appropriate replacement sheet has been provided.

The Examiner noted a number of informalities in the Specification, all of which have been addressed in the “Amendments to the Specification” section presented herein. Notably, at page 8, line 7, Applicants have replace the numeral “814” with “804” instead of “822” as suggested by the Examiner. This is a more proper designation. Additionally, at page 10, line 22, “valve 800, 822” has been amended to “valves 800, 820” inasmuch as 820 is the proper designation, though such a correction was not suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner objected to all pending claims in light of the fact that they mention “the dirt” in their preamble. Although the Examiner suggested that “the dirt” be replaced with “any dirt,” Applicants have decided to simply change “the dirt” to

“dirt.” The Examiner has also requested that “predetermine” at claim 21, line 8 be replaced with “predetermined,” and Applicants have entered this amendment. In addition, Applicants have amended that same line to include the word “tank” after detergent.

The Examiner objected to claims 3 and 7 for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Examiner contends that claims 3 and 7 failed to further structurally limit the apparatus. Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 3 further limits the “third filter” of claim 2 by requiring that it filter out detergent residue from a cleaning solution. This more narrowly defines the third filter, which, in claim 2, was required only to filter particles from the cleaning solution and dirt of a smaller size than the particles filtered from the second filter. Similarly, claim 7 further limits the second filter of claim 1 by requiring that it filter out particles greater than or equal to five microns. It will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that only certain filter structures can accomplish these further limitations, and, thus, claims 3 and 7 are in proper dependent form, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 19-22 are allowed and that claims 10 and 15 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 now includes the subject matter of original claim 10 and the claims from which it depended. Similarly, claim 15 now includes the subject matter of the original claim and all the claims from which it depended. Claims 16-18 have all been amended to depend from claim 15. Thus, claims 10 and 15-22 should all be in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are the only claims remaining for consideration. Of these claims, claim 1 is independent, and all other claims depend therefrom, thus, Applicants herein argue for the allowance of claim 1 with the understanding that all other claims depending therefrom will be allowable as well.

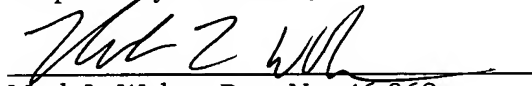
Claim 1 has been objected as being unpatentable over Helm '069. It has also independently been rejected as being unpatentable over Clemons '801. In yet another rejection, it has been rejected as being unpatentable over Karpanty '810. In light of

amendments presented to claim 1, none of these rejections are now proper and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Particularly, claim 1 is now directed toward a "portable" cleaning apparatus, and none of the cited art is portable, particularly when this term is further understood in light of the main body of the claim. In the main body of the claim, the housing element has been further limited by being "mounted to a handle assembly pivotally connected to a base assembly," the fluid source has been further limited by indicating that it is "mounted to said housing," and the liquid recovery system has been further limited by indicating that it is "mounted to said base assembly." It is further indicated in the claim that the handle is pivoted and manipulated to move the base assembly relative to the surface. This structurally distinguishes the claimed portable cleaning apparatus from all of the cited prior art. Indeed, the cited prior art is focused upon large industrial units that are typically driven by the operator. The cited art cannot anticipate the claims.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all pending claims, and a Notice of Allowance for the same is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Two independent claims have been added and one independent claim has been canceled. There are now four independent claims, and a Credit Card Payment in the amount of \$200 is submitted with this response to cover this claim. In the event that a fee required for the filing of this document is missing or insufficient, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0987.

Respectfully submitted,



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